

amendment would replace, did the same thing exactly as the bill, except that they do through a Catastrophic Disaster Fund, which have been administered by the civil defense but operated in the same manner as the Governor's Emergency Fund. In our discussions with the administration we agreed it would be better to take the matter out of the jurisdictions of the civil defense and in the process of doing so agreed to place this fund under the State's Claims Board. And I'd take just a minute to explain to you why I introduced this. I'm sure that all of you, through the last couple of years, have, have heard about and are in, certainly have knowledge of the devastating financial crisis that has gripped Richardson County, which is a county in my district. But it could happen, as you well recognize, in anybody's district. In 1992 and '93 Richardson County was victimized by flooding from the Missouri River causing approximately 4.25 to 4.5 million dollars in public damage, not to mention the damage that was done to personal property. Of that total amount of approximately 4.25 to 4.5 million dollars, only about 2.3 million dollars was reimbursed from the federal and state government. And as a result of that, many bridges and roads in Richardson County are now closed and will probably remain closed because there is not the financial resources in order to deal with this, which certainly leaves a lot of farmers in a situation where they're not able to get to their, to their property, only through extra mileage and extra effort. Along with this the county has had four major murder trials, which by the...which by the law the county has to pay for, including not only the prosecution of the accused but the defense of the accused and most of the subsequent appeals. These murder trials, as you, I'm sure you're aware of, were trials with the Michael and Dennis Ryan, a father and son, and the two latest trials, Lotter and Nissen trials that were gruesome murders that I believe we are all familiar with and so I'm not going into any more detail on those. Those trials to date have cost the county just under one million dollars with bills on those cases still coming in to Richardson County. And as many of you known or read in the paper recently, Dennis Ryan has been convicted of second degree murder in the same incident that involved his father, Michael. His father, Michael, was granted a retrial due to the fact that the word "malice" was improperly included in the jury's instructions, one of the many cases that we've been hearing about. All of this combined has put enormous financial pressure on the county. A county which has a reputation, and I can assure you because I know the county very well, it's next to